

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be entered at least because they place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-8, 10-21 and 23-38 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 9 and 22 are currently being amended.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 9 and 22 are now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that at least claims 9 and 22 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 9 and 22 have been amended to be in independent form, and are thus in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is moot with respect to claims 1-8, 10-21 and 23-38, which have been cancelled. Pending claims 9 and 22 have been amended to address the issue raised in the Office Action, namely to change “the certificate” to “the digital certificate”, and applicants submit that rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph has been overcome.

Double patenting

Claims 1-38 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-22 of copending U.S.

Patent Application No. 10/075,380 (hereafter "the '380 application"). Claims of the '380 application have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of the present application. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow one of the present application and copending '380 application, at which time a Terminal Disclaimer will be filed in the other application if such is warranted. (See MPEP 822.01).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8, 10-15, 23-30 and 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,189,097 to Tyckensen ("Tyckensen") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,978,484 to Apperson et al. ("Apperson"). Claims 16-21 and 31-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tyckensen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,659,616 to Sudia ("Sudia"). These rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-8, 10-21 and 23-38.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By Thomas G. Bilodeau

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5485
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

William T. Ellis
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,874

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438